

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A fastener adapted to be attached to a sheet-shaped member, so that the sheet-shaped member can be attached to a mounting member via the fastener, the fastener comprising:

a tubular shank adapted to be inserted into a mounting hole of the sheet-shaped member;

a plurality of ~~spaced~~ individual holding piece arms, extending radially outward from a corresponding partial portions of the periphery of a first end of the shank, and substantially in a same plane as the first end of the shank, the holding piece arms being separated from each other by open spaces in said plane that are substantially greater in width than width of said holding piece arms in said plane;

a flange extending outward from a second end of the shank, and having an outer cross-dimension greater than an inner cross-dimension of the mounting hole of the sheet-shaped member; and

at least one stud-engagement pawl extending into the interior of the shank,

wherein the shank has a length less than that of a stem of a stud fixed to a mounting member with which the fastener is to be engaged, so that the stud stem protrudes from a first surface of the sheet-shaped member after the shank is

inserted into the mounting hole, with the holding piece arms leading, until the holding piece arms are adjacent to the first surface and the flange is adjacent to an opposite second surface of the sheet-shaped member, and the stud is passed through the shank and the pawl is engaged with the stud, and wherein protrusion of the stud stem allows an auxiliary member to be mounted thereto.

2. (withdrawn-currently amended) A The fastener according to Claim 1, adapted to be attached to a sheet shaped member, so that the sheet shaped member can be attached to a mounting member via the fastener, the fastener comprising:

a tubular shank adapted to be inserted into a mounting hole of the sheet shaped member;

at least one holding piece, extending outward from a corresponding partial portion of the periphery of a first end of the shank;

a flange extending outward from a second end of the shank, and having an outer cross dimension greater than an inner cross dimension of the mounting hole of the sheet shaped member; and

at least one stud engagement pawl extending into the interior of the shank;

wherein the shank has a length less than that of a stem of a stud fixed to a mounting member with which the fastener is to be engaged, so that the stud stem protrudes from a first surface of the sheet shaped member after the shank is

~~inserted into the mounting hole, with the holding piece leading, until the holding piece is juxtaposed with the first surface and the flange is juxtaposed with an opposite second surface of the sheet shaped member, and the stud is passed through the shank and the pawl is engaged with the stud, and wherein protrusion of the stud stem allows an auxiliary member to be mounted thereto, and~~

wherein there are a plurality of the stud-engagement pawls, each extending from a position near the second end of the shank to a position near the first end of the shank and inclined inwardly of the shank.

3. (currently amended) A The fastener according to Claim 1, ~~adapted to be attached to a sheet shaped member, so that the sheet shaped member can be attached to a mounting member via the fastener, the fastener comprising:~~

~~— a tubular shank adapted to be inserted into a mounting hole of the sheet shaped member;~~

~~— at least one holding piece, extending outward from a corresponding partial portion of the periphery of a first end of the shank, and substantially in a same plane as the first end of the shank;~~

~~a flange extending outward from a second end of the shank, and having an outer cross dimension greater than an inner cross dimension of the mounting hole of the sheet shaped member; and~~

~~at least one stud engagement pawl extending into the interior of the shank,~~

~~wherein the shank has a length less than that of a stem of a stud fixed to a mounting member with which the fastener is to be engaged, so that the stud stem protrudes from a first surface of the sheet shaped member after the shank is inserted into the mounting hole, with the holding piece leading, until the holding piece is adjacent to the first surface and the flange is adjacent to an opposite second surface of the sheet shaped member, and the stud is passed through the shank and the pawl is engaged with the stud, and wherein protrusion of the stud stem allows an auxiliary member to be mounted thereto, and~~

~~wherein there are a plurality of the stud-engagement pawls, each extending radially inward from a position near substantially at the first end of the shank.~~

4. (currently amended) A The fastener according to Claim 1, ~~adapted to be attached to a sheet shaped member, so that the sheet shaped member can be attached to a mounting member via the fastener, the fastener comprising:~~

~~a tubular shank adapted to be inserted into a mounting hole of the sheet shaped member;~~

~~at least one holding piece, extending outward from a corresponding partial portion of the periphery of a first end of the shank, and substantially in a same plane as the first end of the shank;~~

~~a flange extending outward from a second end of the shank, and having an outer cross dimension greater than an~~

~~inner cross dimension of the mounting hole of the sheet shaped member; and~~

~~at least one stud engagement pawl extending into the interior of the shank,~~

~~wherein the shank has a length less than that of a stem of a stud fixed to a mounting member with which the fastener is to be engaged, so that the stud stem protrudes from a first surface of the sheet shaped member after the shank is inserted into the mounting hole, with the holding piece leading, until the holding piece is adjacent to the first surface and the flange is adjacent to an opposite second surface of the sheet shaped member, and the stud is passed through the shank and the pawl is engaged with the stud, and wherein protrusion of the stud stem allows an auxiliary member to be mounted thereto, and~~

wherein after an auxiliary member is mounted to the stud stem, a wall of the auxiliary member is in contact with the holding piece arms and the first end of the shank to allow the wall of the auxiliary member to be located at a position apart from the mounting member by a given distance.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein the holding piece arms have flat surfaces aligned with the first end of the shank.

7. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a mounting member having a stud thereon, a sheet-shaped member, a fastener, and an auxiliary member, wherein:

the sheet-shaped member has a mounting hole through which the stud extends and protrudes from one side of the sheet-shaped member,

the fastener has a tubular shank surrounding the stud in the mounting hole, has a flange extending outward from a first flange end of the shank adjacent to a second side of the sheet-shaped member adjacent to the mounting member, has at least one pawl extending into the interior of the shank and engaging a groove or thread of the stud, and has a second opposite end of the shank, opposite to and remote from the first flange end, with at least one a plurality of individual holding piece arms projecting radially outward from the second opposite end of the shank substantially in a same plane as the second opposite end of the shank, and adjacent to the first side of the sheet-shaped member, the holding piece arms being separated from each other by open spaces in said plane that are substantially greater in width than width of said holding piece arms in said plane, and

wherein the auxiliary member has a wall with a hole through which the stud projects, the wall being adjacent to the second opposite end of the shank.

8. (withdrawn) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein there are a plurality of pawls extending from near the flange end

of the shank toward the opposite end of the shank and inclined inwardly.

9. (currently amended) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein there are a plurality of pawls extending radially inward from positions ~~adjacent to~~ substantially at the ~~second~~ opposite end of the shank.

10. (currently amended) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein the stud is threaded and the wall of the auxiliary member is held between the ~~second~~ opposite end of the shank and a nut on the stud.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The assembly of Claim ~~11~~ 7, wherein the holding piece arms have flat surfaces aligned with the ~~second~~ opposite end of the shank, and the wall of the auxiliary member is adjacent to the flat surfaces of the holding piece arms.

13. (original) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein the second side of the sheet-shaped member and the flange are in contact with the mounting member.

14. (new) The fastener according to Claim 1, wherein there are four evenly spaced holding piece arms.

15. (new) The assembly according to Claim 7, wherein there are four evenly spaced holding piece arms.